

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10 (canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A refrigeration device, comprising:

- a thermally insulating housing;
- said thermally insulating housing enclosing an inner chamber;
- said thermally insulating housing enclosing an evaporator arranged in an air passage separated from and communicating with said inner chamber;
- a heating device for heating said evaporator;
- a control circuit for controlling the operation of said heating device;
- a measuring device arranged in said air passage to provide a measured signal representative of the air flow through said air passage; and
- said control circuit coupled to said measuring device air flow and receiving said measured signal, said control circuit enabled to bring activating said heating device into operation when the ~~recorded~~ air flow signal falls below a predetermined threshold value.

12. (Currently Amended) The refrigeration device according to claim 11, wherein said measuring device includes a body driven to move by said air flow in said passage and a sensor to record the movement of said body indicative of the air flow speed and said control circuit determines a fall below said threshold value when the ~~recorded~~ air flow speed falls below said threshold value.

13. (Currently Amended) The refrigeration device according to claim 11, wherein said measuring device includes an elastic element which can be deflected from a rest position by said air flow in said passage and a sensor to record the deflection of said element indicative of the air flow speed and said control circuit determines a fall below said threshold value when the recorded deflection falls below said threshold value.

14. (Currently Amended) The refrigeration device according to claim 11, wherein said measuring device includes a pressure sensor to measure a dynamic air pressure in said passage indicative of the air flow speed and said control circuit determines a fall below the threshold value when said recorded pressure rises above said threshold value.

15. (Currently Amended) The refrigeration device according to claim 11, wherein said measuring device includes two temperature sensors which are thermally differently closely coupled to at least one of a heat source and a sink and the air in said passage indicative of the air flow speed and said control circuit determines a fall below the threshold value when the difference between the temperatures recorded by the two sensors exceeds said threshold value.

16. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to claim 15, wherein said heat sink is said evaporator.

17. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration device according to claim 16, including a first one of said temperature sensors arranged directly in contact with said evaporator.

18. (Currently Amended) The refrigeration device according to claim 17, wherein said first temperature sensor is arranged on an area of said evaporator which is capable of icing up.

19. (Currently Amended) The refrigeration device according to claim 18, ~~including the~~wherein a second one of said temperature sensors is arranged on an output of said passage.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the defrosting of an evaporator in a refrigeration device, said refrigeration device comprising a thermally insulating housing; said thermally insulating housing enclosing an inner chamber; said thermally insulating housing enclosing an evaporator arranged in an air passage separated from and communicating with said inner chamber; a heating device for heating said evaporator; and a control circuit for controlling the operation of said heating device; ~~said method comprising the following steps:~~

estimating an air flow through said air passage in which said evaporator ~~(7)~~is arranged; and

triggering a defrosting process when the estimated air flow falls below a predetermined threshold value.

21. (New) A refrigeration device, comprising:

a thermally insulated housing enclosing an inner chamber and including an air passage separated from and communicating with said inner chamber;

an evaporator arranged in said air passage;

a heating device for heating said evaporator;

a control circuit for controlling operation of said heating device; and

a measuring device disposed in said air passage, said measuring device being directly displaceable by air flow through said air passage,

wherein said control circuit communicates with said measuring device and activates said heating device when the air flow through said air passage falls below a predetermined threshold value.